were present H. H. Burkitt Esquire, I. C. S., the Resident in Travancore and Cochin, A. J. H. S. Hillman Capt. R. A., Assistant Resident, R. Viraraghava Iyengar Esquire, B. A. & B. L., Chief Justice and the Heads of Departments and Offices and several non-official gentlemen.

IV. Copies of the Dewan's Address in English, Malayalam and Tamil were distributed to the Members. Copies of the Administration Report of the State for 1095, of the Report on the Administration of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for 1095 and of the Memoranda of subjects in English and Malayalam were also distributed among the Members.

The Dewan then opened the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

"Gentlemen,

PRELIMINARY.

Under the gracious command of His Highness the Maha Raja, it is my privilege to welcome you to the Seventeenth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

2. Personnel.—Since the last Session of the Assembly, there have been several changes in the higher ranks of the public service. Dewan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nair, who steered the ship of State safely through six years constituting one of the most trying periods in its economic history, retired from the office of Dewan on the 25th Mithunam 1095, and His Highness the Maha Raja was pleased to appoint me to succeed him. The sudden death, on the 27th Karkadakam 1095, of Mr. K. Raman Menon, the late Chief Justice, while still on leave preparatory to retirement, came as a painful shock to the people of the State whom he had served so well. Mr. N. Subrahmanya Aiyar, Senior Dewan Peishkar, retired into private life on a well-earned pension after a record of long and strenuous service. Mr. N. Raman Pillai, the Excise Commissioner, to whose able and energetic lead for a period of about twelve years, the Excise Department, which supplies the State with more than a third of its entire revenue, owes its steady and substantial advancement, also retired towards the close of the year. Lieutenant Commander W. L. Kelly, the Principal Port Officer, and Lieutenant H. C. Hodgson, Battalion Commandant, Nayar Brigade, reverted to the British service. Among other retirements of the year, those of Mr. O. S. Barrow, the Deputy Chief Engineer, Mr. K. R. Rangaswami Aiyangar, Executive Engineer, and Mr. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, are worthy of particular mention. All these officers rendered valuable service to the State in their different spheres of work, and I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to place on record the Government's appreciation of their services.

3. Events of 1095.—Copies of the Administration Report for the year 1095 M. E. have been placed in your hands and that report deals in detail with the administration of the State during the year. I need hardly say that the record of work embodied in that report is almost wholly that of Mr. Krishnan Nair who, I am sure, would be quite satisfied with your verdict on it. It is customary on this occasion to review the work of the past year, but I do not propose to follow that precedent this year. I would only briefly mention the outstanding features of the year. The year was the first one when the State, like the rest of the world, began to recover from the adverse economic effects of the great war, and owing to the release of shipping and a revival of transport facilities, as well as the large inflow of capital that had taken place as a result of the high prices of commodities requisitioned during the war, the State exhibited a marked revival in trade and activity in company promotion, in spite of unfavourable seasonal conditions. For the first time after the war, it was found possible to terminate the restrictions that had to be imposed on the freedom of trade and to give up State control over the distribution of food-grains and other necessaries of life, and Government were able to satisfy more than the minimum requirements of the departments of administration that deal with the extension of communications and the advancement of public well-being.

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